

PATENT
Serial No. 09/925,856

Docket No. 1232-4755

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-9 are rejected and claims 10-17 have been allowed. Claims 1 and 9 are amended as shown above and claims 2, 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 10 are independent in form. No new matter has been presented.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 has been objected to for stated informalities which have been addressed in the amendments presented herein. Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been overcome or otherwise rendered moot, and that it be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Endo, USP 5,489,992. Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Endo in view of Tabata, USP 6,081,351 ("Tabata '351). Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Endo in view of Tabata, USP 6,333,779 ("Tabata '779). Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Endo in view of Kao, USP 6,563,611.

Applicants have herein canceled claims 2, 3 and 4, rendering the rejections as to these claims moot. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants do not agree with the stated rejections, and respectfully traverse said rejections. Applicants have herein amended independent claim 1 to further clarify the claimed

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invention and submits that it, and the claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

Claim 1 has been amended to more specifically express the shape of the light guide of the present invention, as shown, e.g., in Fig. 10C. Amended claim 1 is characterized by the inclined surface of the light guide on the document side, other than an irradiation part, with respect to the lower surface of the light guide, which makes it possible to prevent light reflected by the inclined surface from illuminating an area of the document, the area being read by the image sensing device.

By contrast, the upper surface of the continuous light source 12 in Endo is not inclined with respect to the lower surface of the light source 12, nor does it suggest such. Furthermore, neither Tabata '351 nor Tabata '779 teach or suggest such a feature.

Accordingly, neither Endo, nor Tabata '351 nor Tabata '779, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest at least the above mentioned characteristic of the claimed invention.

Therefore, the present invention as recited in claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from the art of record in at least the respects set forth above and is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of these references taken individually or in combination for at least the reasons stated.

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of dependent claims 5-9 because these claims directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 1, which is believed allowable as set forth above, and such dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as for the independent claim from which they depend. Applicants

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however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as recited in the claims as presented herein is allowable over the art of record, and respectfully request that the respective rejections and objections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Applicants believes no extension of time is required for this filing. Should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4755.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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